This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation method that provides a user computer with a quote for acceptance of a used article from a user, said used article quotation method comprising the steps of:

(a) causing a server computer, which is connected with the user computer in a communicable manner, to receive a quotation request of the used article and quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article, from the user computer and to determine a trade-in quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a trade-in of the used article with purchase of a product and a cash-out quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a cash-out of the used article without purchase of a product, based on the quotation requirement information; and

(b) causing the server computer to send quotation information, which includes the trade-in quote and the cash-out quote determined in said step (a), to the user computer<u>,</u>

<u>wherein said step (b) causes the server computer to determine whether the cash-out quote, which has been determined based on the quotation requirement information, is in a preset allowable cash-out value range and, when it is determined that the cash-out quote is out of the preset allowable cash-out value range, to send the quotation information excluding the cash-out quote to the user computer.</u>

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer to determine the trade-in quote and the cash-out quote in such a manner that the trade-in quote is ~~advantageous over~~ <u>higher than</u> the cash-out quote.

Claim 3 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer either to determine first the cash-out quote and then the trade-in quote based on the predetermined cash-out quote in such a manner that the trade-in quote is advantageous over the cash-out quote, or to determine first the trade-in quote and then the cash-out quote based on the predetermined trade-in quote in such a manner that the trade-in quote is advantageous over the cash-out quote.

Claim 4 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer either to determine the cash-out quote and compute the trade-in quote as a function of the predetermined cash-out quote, or to determine the trade-in quote and compute the cash-out quote as a function of the predetermined trade-in quote.

Claim 5 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer to set a minimum value and a maximum value of the cash-out quote and a maximum value and a minimum value of the trade-in quote.

Claim 6 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (b) causes the server computer to send a quotation window, which includes a cash-out option selected by the user to request a cash-out at the cash-out quote and a trade-in option selected by the user to request a trade-in at the trade-in quote, in addition to the cash-out quote and the trade-in quote, as the quotation information to the user computer.

Claim 7 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 6, said used article quotation method further comprising the steps of:

(c) in response to receipt of the user's selection of the trade-in option from the user computer after said step (b), causing the server computer to store a trade-in specification, which includes the quotation requirement information and the trade-in quote, into a storage unit; and

(d) in response to receipt of a product purchase request from the user computer, causing the server computer to read the trade-in specification stored in said storage unit, to send the read-out trade-in specification to the user computer, and to ask the user whether to effectuate a trade-in according to the trade-in specification.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (b) causes the server computer to send a quotation window, which includes a cash-out option selected by the user to request a cash-out at the cash-out quote and a trade-in option selected by the user to request a trade-in at the trade-in quote, in addition to the cash-

out quote and the trade-in quote, as the quotation information to the user computer and, when the cash-out quote, which has been determined based on the quotation requirement information, is out of a preset allowable cash-out value range, to send either of the quotation window excluding the cash-out option or the quotation window including the cash-out option in a certain state that does not allow for the user's selection, to the user computer.

Claim 10 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer to receive the quotation request of the used article and information regarding a component included in the used article as the quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article, from the user computer and to determine the trade-in quote and the cash-out quote, based on the information regarding the component included in the used article.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation system that provides a user computer with a quote for acceptance of a used article from a user, said used article quotation system comprising:

a quote determination module that receives a quotation request of the used article and quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article, from the user computer and determines a trade-in quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a trade-in of the used article with purchase of a product and a cash-out quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a cash-out of the used article without purchase of a product, based on the quotation requirement information; and

a quotation information transmission module that sends quotation information, which includes the trade-in quote and the cash-out quote determined by said quote determination module, to the user computer,

wherein said quotation information transmission module causes said quote determination module to determine whether the cash-out quote, which has been determined based on the quotation requirement information, is in a preset allowable cash-out value range and, when it is determined that the cash-out quote is out of the preset allowable cash-out value range, to send the quotation information excluding the cash-out quote to the user computer.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation method that provides a user computer with a quote for acceptance of a used article from a user, said used article quotation method comprising the steps of:

(a) causing a server computer, which is connected with the user computer in a communicable manner, to receive a quotation request of the used article and quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article, from the user computer and to set a tentative quote of the used article, based on the quotation requirement information;

(b) causing the server computer to determine whether assessment of the used article is required, according to the tentative quote;

(c) when it is determined in said step (b) that assessment of the used article is not required, causing the server computer to determine ~~a settled price of no value range~~ a lowest price according to the tentative quote as a firm price for acceptance of the used article without assessment and to set the firm price to a final quote of the used article, and when it is determined in said step (b) that assessment of the used article is required, causing the server computer to set a value range from the lowest to a highest price according to the tentative quote to the final quote of the used article on the condition of assessment of the used article; and

(d) causing the server computer to send quotation information including the final quote, to the user computer.

Claim 13 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said step (b) causes the server computer to determine that assessment of the used article is not required, when the tentative quote is less than a preset assessment requirement judgment value.

Claim 14 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said step (c), when it is determined in said step (b) that assessment of the used article is not required, causes the server computer to specify a value level of the tentative quote and to set either of the settled price of no value range determined according to the tentative quote or a fixed value regardless of the tentative quote to the firm price, based on the specified value level.

Claim 15 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said step (c), when it is determined in said step (b) that assessment of the used article is not required, causes the server computer to compare the tentative quote with a predetermined value level criterion and to set the settled price of no value range determined according to the tentative quote to the firm price in the case where the tentative quote exceeds the predetermined value level criterion and to set a fixed value regardless of the tentative quote to the firm price in the case where the tentative quote is not greater than the predetermined value level criterion.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 12, said used article quotation method further comprising the step of:

(e) causing the server computer to determine whether the used article is worth of acceptance, based on the setting of the tentative quote in said step (a),

wherein, when it is determined in said step (e) that the used article is not worth of acceptance, said step (d) causes the server computer to send the quotation information including a notice that the used article is not acceptable, to the user computer.

Claim 18 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer to receive the quotation request of the used article and the quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article, from the user computer and to set a tentative trade-in quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a trade-in with purchase of a product and a tentative cash-out quote for the acceptance of the used article that is a cash-out without purchase of a product, based on the quotation requirement information,

said step (b) causes the server computer to determine whether assessment of the used article is required individually with regard to the trade-in and the cash-out,

when it is determined in said step (b) that assessment of the used article is not required with regard to each of the trade-in and the cash-out, said step (c) causes the server computer to determine a settled trade-in price of no value range according to the tentative trade-in quote as a firm trade-in price for the trade-in without assessment and set the firm trade-in price to a final trade-in quote of the used article, and to determine a settled cash-out price of no value

range according to the tentative cash-out quote as a firm cash-out price for the cash-out
without assessment and set the firm cash-out price to a final cash-out quote of the used
article, and

said step (d) causes the server computer to send the quotation information including
both the final trade-in quote and the final cash-out quote, to the user computer.

Claim 19 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 18, said
used article quotation method further comprising the step of:

(f) causing the server computer to determine whether the used article is worth of
acceptance with regard to at least the cash-out, based on the setting of the tentative cash-out
quote in said step (a),

wherein, when it is determined in said step (f) that the used article is not worth of
acceptance, said step (d) causes the server computer to send the quotation information
including a notice that the used article is not acceptable, to the user computer.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A used article quotation system that provides a user
computer with a quote for acceptance of a used article from a user, said used article quotation
system comprising:

a tentative quote setting module that receives a quotation request of the used article
and quotation requirement information, which is required for quotation of the used article,
from the user computer and sets a tentative quote of the used article based on the quotation
requirement information;

an assessment requirement judgment module that determines whether assessment of
the used article is required, according to the tentative quote set by said tentative quote setting
module;

a final quote setting module that, when it is determined that assessment of the used
article is not required by said assessment requirement judgment module, determines a settled
price of no value range a lowest price according to the tentative quote as a firm price for
acceptance of the used article without assessment and sets the firm price to a final quote of
the used article, and when it is determined that assessment of the used article is required by
said assessment requirement judgment module, sets a value range from the lowest to a highest
price according to the tentative quote to the final quote of the used article on the condition of
assessment of the used article; and

a quotation information transmission module that sends quotation information including the final quote set by said final quote setting module, to the user computer.

Claims 21 and 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Original): A used article quotation method that is utilized for a trade-in of a used article from a user, said used article quotation method comprising the steps of:

(a) causing a server computer, which is connected with the user computer in a communicable manner, to receive information regarding a trade-in quotation request of the used article from a user computer, to determine a trade-in quote of the used article based on the information regarding the trade-in quotation request, and to send quotation information including the trade-in quote of the used article, to the user computer;

(b) causing the server computer to send to the user computer either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article in a specific format that allows for storage in the user computer; and

(c) in the case where either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article has been stored in the user computer, causing the server computer to make a trade-in procedure of the used article without requiring the user computer to reenter the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article, after the user completes a product purchase procedure.

Claim 24 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said step (b) causes the server computer to send to the user computer either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article as a cookie that is storable in the user computer.

Claim 25 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said step (b) causes the server computer to store either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article into a predetermined storage unit, instead of sending to the user computer either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article in the specific format that allows for storage in the user computer, and

in the case where either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article has been stored in the predetermined storage unit, said step (c) causes the server computer to make the trade-in procedure of the used article without requiring the user computer to reenter the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article, after the user completes the product purchase procedure.

Claim 26 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer to receive information regarding a component included in the used article as the information regarding the trade-in quotation request from the user computer and to determine the trade-in quote, based on the information regarding the component included in the used article.

Claim 27 (Original): A used article quotation method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said step (a) causes the server computer to set a minimum value and a maximum value of the trade-in quote of the used article.

Claims 28 and 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Original): A used article quotation system that is connected with a user computer in a communicable manner and utilized by a user to ask for acceptance of a used article, said used article quotation system comprising:

a quotation information transmission module that receives information regarding a trade-in quotation request of the used article from the user computer, determines a trade-in quote of the used article based on the information regarding the trade-in quotation request, and sends quotation information including the trade-in quote of the used article, to the user computer;

a storage control module that sends to the user computer either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article in a specific format that allows for storage in the user computer; and

a trade-in procedure execution module that, in the case where either of the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article or the trade-in quote of the used article has been stored in the user computer, makes a trade-in procedure of the used article without requiring the user computer to reenter the information regarding the trade-in quotation request of the used article, after the user completes a product purchase procedure.